

## Message Text

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11

ACTION ARA-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-03 L-02 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 T-01

RSR-01 /054 W

----- 055187

R 142303 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3945

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1001

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OAS PBOR ES HO

SUBJ: GOH WISHES TO REACTIVATE OAS COMMITTEE OF SEVEN

REF: STATE 043405

1. ON MAR 14 FONMIN BATRES INFORMED CHARGE THAT HE HAD VISITED SAN JOSE AND MANAGUA ON MARCH 12-14, PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS HONDURAS/ SALVADOR DISPUTE. HE SAID THAT TWO COUNTRIES HAD NOW REACHED IMPASSE IN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AND HE WAS CONCERNED TO FIND NEW WAY TO TACKLE PROBLEM. HE NOW WANTS TO " REACTIVATE" COMMITTEE OF SEVEN ON DISPUTE. HE FORESEES BOTH FONMINS MAKING REPORT TO COMMITTEE AS OASGA. HE DID NOT SPECIFY IN DETAIL WHAT NEW COMMITTEE ACTIVITY HE DESIRED BUT GAVE AS " POSSIBLE EXAMPLE" CLOSE COMMITTEE SUPERVISION OF POINT- BY- POINT BILATERAL DISCUSSION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES.

2. BATRES SAID HE HAD SOLICITED SUPPORT FROM FONMINS OF COSTA RICA AND NICARAGUA, AND BOTH HAD INDICATED  
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THEY WOULD SUPPORT HIS IDEA.

3. CHARGE ASKED BATRES WHETHER HE HAD RECEIVED NO NEWS ON POSSIBILITY OF SALVADORAN ACCEPTANCE OF ARBITRATION SINCE HIS MEETING WITH BORGONOVO SOME TIME AGO. HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED NO MESSAGE FROM BORGONOVO ON ARBITRATION. ON MAR 5 GUATEMALAN FONMIN ARENALES HAD VISITED TEGUS AND BROUGHT ALONG SALVADORAN PROPOSAL THAT IN INTERIM PRIOR TO RESOLUTION OF BORDER DIFFERENCE, TWO COUNTRIES PLAN TO RESUME TRADE. BATRES REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL OUT OF HAND, SAYING THAT GOES WAS CONTINUALLY SUGGESTING SOLUTIONS TO ASPECTS OF PROBLEM OF INTEREST OR ADVANTAGE TO IT BUT NOT TO GOH. HE ALSO REFERRED TO HIS PUBLIC REJECTION OF BORGONOVO'S IDEA OF ASKING BORDER POPULATION TO IDENTIFY ACCEPTED LOCATION OF DEMARCATION LINE.

4. BATRES ASKED CHARGE TO REPORT CONVERSATION TO AMB JOVA, IN WHOSE REACTION HE WOULD BE INTERESTED. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, FONMIN SAID HE WAS NOT SOUNDING OUT OTHER COUNTRIES OF COMMITTEE OF SEVEN AT THIS TIME.

5. CHARGE AGREED TO TRANSMIT MESSAGE, MAKING NO REFERENCE TO INFORMATION IN REFTEL. HE DID, HOWEVER, SURMISE THAT IT MIGHT BE HARD TO REACTIVATE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN IN MATTER, SINCE ITS TRAJECTORY OF INVOLVEMENT HAD DECLINED TO ALMOST NOTHING IN PAST TWO YEARS.

6. BATRES ADMITTED THE DIFFICULTY, BUT SAID IT WAS URGENT TO GET DISPUTE OFF DEAD CENTER, BY SOME MEANS, AS ITS INDEFINITE CONTINUANCE WOULD RUIN TALKS ON RESTRUCTURING CACM.

7. COMMENT: WE HAD HOPED THAT NEW GOVT MIGHT ACHIEVE ADVANCES IN SOLVING DISPUTE, SINCE GEN LOPEZ AND MILITARY WERE LESS RIGID ON METHODOLOGY OF SOLUTION THAN WAS PRES CRUZ. MINIMUM GOH POSITION, NEVERTHELESS, HAS NOT BEEN ALTERED THAT THERE MUST BE BINDING GOES COMMITMENT FOR SOME KIND OF TIMETABLE WHICH IMPELS BOTH SIDES TOWARDS FINAL BORDER SOLUTION, AND TO SOME KIND OF MECHANISM WHICH WILL FINALLY RESOLVE TERMINAL DISAGREEMENTS ON LOCATION OF FRONTIER. BATRES AND GOH  
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SEEM OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS ON NATURE OF CLOSING OPERATION,  
SO LONG AS IT IS BINDING.  
DAVIS

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* LIMDIS  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**TAGS:** PBOR, PFOR, ES, HO, n/a, OAS  
**To:** ARA  
GUATEMALA  
MANAGUA  
SAN JOSE  
SAN SALVADOR  
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USCINCSO

**Type:** TE

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